

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, as follows:*

This application claims the priority and benefit of United States Patent Provisional Application Serial No. 60/250,473, filed December 4, 2000, entitled "DYNAMIC OFFSET THRESHOLD FOR DIVERSITY HANDOVER IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM" and United States Patent Provisional Application 60/250,476, filed December 4, 2000, entitled "PRELIMINARY PERFORMANCE OF HANDOVER FUNCTIONS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM", and is related to simultaneously-filed United States Patent Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ (attorney docket: ~~2380-486~~) 09/931,280, entitled "PRELIMINARY PERFORMANCE OF HANDOVER FUNCTIONS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM", all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 13, and continuing to page 6, line 21, as follows:*

In an example, non-limiting embodiment of the invention, the dynamic offset threshold determination unit initiates at least the preliminary portion of the soft handover sequence when the signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station is not less than a dynamic offset threshold. The dynamic offset threshold is a difference between the signal strength of the source base station as received at the specified mobile station and a dynamic offset. The dynamic offset is a function of a fixed offset and the probability of the specified mobile station fulfilling the handover criteria.